

Remarks/Argument

This paper is submitted responsive to the office action mailed October 19, 2005, and is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination.

In the aforesaid office action, the Examiner objected to language in claims 22 and 26, allowed claim 5, indicated claim 8 as allowable, and rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-12, 22 and 24-26 over prior art.

In connection with the objections to claims 22 and 26, claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice, and claim 26 has been amended to recite additional structure such that claim 26 is clearly a proper dependent claim from independent claim 24.

Independent claims 1 and 24 are the only independent claims rejected over prior art, and each of these claims has been rejected based primarily upon U.S. Patent No. 6,139,810 to Gottzmann et al.

It is believed that claims 1 and 24 are allowable over Gottzmann et al. as originally worded, since it is believed that Gottzmann et al. do not disclose a solid oxide fuel cell stack with at least two fuel cell components and a continuous fiber tow wrapped into a closed-loop structure forming a substantially gas impermeable seal between opposed surfaces of the components. Nevertheless, independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to recite additional fuel cell structure from the present application which clearly defines over Gottzman et al. Specifically, claims 1 and 24 have been amended to recite that the structure comprises at least two fuel cells, each comprising an electrolyte having a cathode layer on one side and an anode layer on the other side, and at least one bipolar plate between the at least two fuel cells.

The amendments to claims 1 and 24 are supported in numerous locations of the specification and drawings. One example of support for this claim amendment is at page 5, lines 18-25. Thus, the amendments to claims 1 and 24 do not constitute

introduction of new matter.

It is also respectfully submitted that the structure introduced to claims 1 and 24 is not at all disclosed or suggested by Gottzmann et al., and therefore that claims 1 and 24 as amended are allowable over the art of record.

Dependent claim 11 has been amended to further recite that the compression stop extends from one of the fuel cell components toward the other of the fuel cell components. This is clearly shown in the drawings, for example in figure 1, and clearly is structurally different from the structure of Gottzmann et al. Thus, it is submitted that claim 11 is patentable in its own right.

Dependent claim 26 has been amended to also further recite the structure of the compression stop, and this claim is also submitted to be allowable over the art of record based upon this structure.

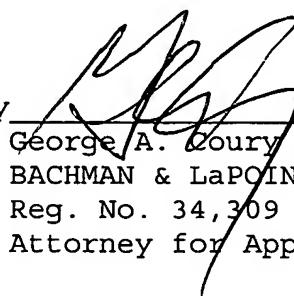
An earnest and thorough effort has been made to respond to all issues raised in the aforesaid office action and place the claims in condition for allowance over all art of record. If, upon considering this response, the Examiner believes that issues remain which can be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss same.

A Request for Continued Examination and a One Month Extension of Time Request accompany this paper, along with two checks totaling the amount of \$910.00 to cover the fees in connection with same. It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this paper. If any fee is due, please charge same to deposit account no. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Rhonda B. Longo, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on July 24, 2006.

